



## DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA

Virginia's Oldest Continuously Chartered Town

CHARTERED 1749 INCORPORATED 1961

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Cydney Neville, Director of Community Services

DATE: March 22, 2013

RE: Monthly Department of Community Services Update

#### Priorities:

- Dumfries Cares
- 2013 Farmer's Market
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Multicultural Festival
- Volunteer Program

#### **Dumfries Cares**

The *Dumfries Cares* program is running. Elementary slots are nearly filled. We are focused on filling the spots for the Middle School Program. If anyone is interested, please contact us at 703.221.3400 ext. 146

Middle School Program-Monday's 3:30-6:30 pm, serving grades 6-8

A continuation for this grant will be submitted by March 29.

#### **Farmer's Market**

The Town's Farmers Market is set for a Grand Opening on Saturday, April 13, 2013. Our Market is now partnered through the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences and featured on the Virginia Grown website. Registration material for participants is currently available on the Town's website.

A Farmers Market Banner and an A-frame sign have been purchased to help market the Market, through a grant from the Dumfries Wal-Mart. The first 100 visitors to attend our Grand Opening on April 13 will receive a prize.

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

The 2013 Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 23 at 11:00 am, at the Ginn Memorial Park. The Dumfries-Triangle Rescue Squad has donated 7,000 candy and toy filled eggs for the event, which will also feature face painting, games, and the Easter Bunny for all to enjoy.

In addition, Pillar Church will have their inflatable bounce house at the park to be enjoyed by our Easter Egg Hunt Participants. Volunteers will be running organized games for the community, following the hunt, and we will have plenty of giveaways.

## **Multicultural Festival**

The Multicultural Festival will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Garrison Park from 10 am - 5 pm. Registration forms for vendors, Bar-B-Que Battle participants and Community Performers are currently available on our website. The event is currently being marketed in the community and local jurisdictions.

New to this year's festival- LOVEwork! In an effort to make the Town and its festivals tourist destinations and to promote family friendly travel destinations, Virginia Tourism's LOVEwork is constantly on 'tour' throughout the state of Virginia, and will be on display in Garrison Park from May 1 - May 7. Visitors are encouraged to take photos with the LOVEwork and to upload their photo on the Virginia Tourism Website: <http://www.virginia.org/LOVE/>

We are currently seeking Community Performers and Vendors for this event. Please contact the Director of Community Services if you have any questions.

## **Volunteer Program**

The Volunteer Program is nearly finalized. The program will consist of an online volunteer management database that will allow volunteers to record and document their volunteer hours, implement the Volunteer Handbook, a screening process, and volunteer job advertisements (as needed) from departments.

More information will be posted on the Town's Website in mid-April.

## **Bike To Work**

The Town of Dumfries Community Center will be an official "Bike To Work" pit stop this year. We are happy to have Mr. Danny Cosner assist the Department, for this event. The event will be held on Friday, May 17. Bikers will be able to stop at our pit stop for breakfast, bike safety information, and t-shirts. More information to come.

<http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/dumfries-pit-stop/>

## **Grants**

- Dumfries Cares
- Walmart Grant - The Department of Community Services has received \$5,500 in grant funding from the Dumfries Walmart to support our Market and Health Initiative. Funds provided will cover the Market Manager, help to advertise the weekly nutritional option in the community (to include a banner and tent fold sign), provide funding for the Grand Opening, nutritious educational materials for youth who attend, provide pedometers for a walking program, and bags to give to the first 100 visitors!

## **ON-GOING ITEMS:**

### **Senior Luncheon**

The March Senior luncheon was a blast. Seniors had fun celebrating St. Patrick's Day, enjoyed Jeremiah's BBQ, and learned about community programs such as VOICE and Project Mend-A-House, as well as services provided through Ascent.

The next Senior Luncheon will be held April 19 from 1 pm - 2:30.

### **English as a Second Language**

Thanks to the partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County, the Town has been able to provide FREE ESOL classes to the community for nearly a year. Mrs. Sonia Hoehn has been doing an exceptional job as our volunteer teacher for this class, and is a pleasure to work with. The Town's FREE ESOL classes are offered on Tuesdays from 10 am - noon.

### **Building a Presence for the Town of Dumfries**

Building a Presence is a community engagement and awareness campaign that will help to create a presence and rekindle relationships within the Town, for citizens and those in surrounding communities. The goal of Building a Presence is that by the end of the next fiscal year, it will be expected for citizens and those in surrounding areas to look to Dumfries first when it comes to finding family friendly activities, festivals to enjoy, community service events and programs. This will be an ongoing campaign, and if successful, all of our events will be well attended, and citizens will be well aware of what the Town of Dumfries has to offer.

In the spirit of putting Dumfries First, with the implementation of *Dumfries Cares*, our Town will be unique in being one of the few, if not the only, Town in Virginia to offer a mentoring program for its youth. The implementation of the mentoring program, in addition to the Summer Youth Employment Program, makes the Town of Dumfries is a trailblazer in investing in the future of our youngest citizens.

In the spirit of Building a Presence for the Town of Dumfries, the sense of pride in our Town was palpable at the parade, and at the community block party towards the end of the event. The Department of Community Services will continue to strive to build upon “Dumfries Pride” in our citizens, throughout 2013.

## **Community Partnerships**

- Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County- ESL classes (<https://sites.google.com/site/litvolpw/>)
- Virginia Cooperative Extension-PWC - Parenting classes, 4-H resource, nutrition resource (<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/prince-william/>)
- Big Sis & Company - ([www.bigsisandcompany.net](http://www.bigsisandcompany.net)) This company is focused on domestic violence prevention. Their CEO was a guest speaker at the Town’s Black History Month Celebration. They will be hosting a few domestic violence prevention programs in the community center.
- Sonia Hoehn-ESL Instructor has donated children’s books.
- Pillar Church - Movies on the Lawn, volunteers. (<http://www.pillardumfries.com/>)
- Weems Botts/Historic Dumfries - Mrs. Barron has given presentations at some of our Senior Luncheon’s and was a guest speaker at the Town’s Black History Month Celebration. ([www.historicdumfries.com](http://www.historicdumfries.com)). She works diligently with our SYEP Participants on Fridays as well.